Scheme for Weavers

*323. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The various Government schemes for weavers; and

(b) The steps taken for weaver's welfare?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Government of India has various schemes for comprehensive assistance to weavers which are as follows:—

(i) DEVELOPMENT OF EXPORTABLE PRODUCTS AND THEIR MARKETING SCHEME:

This scheme aims at giving substantial impetus to the export of handloom fabrics, made-ups and other handloom items from the country.

(ii) MILL GATE PRICE SCHEME:

In order to ensure the adequate supply of yarn to weavers, all types of yarn required for the production of handloom items are supplied at prices prevailing at the Mill Gate Price *i.e.* without any added transportation cost, by the National Handloom Development Corporation.

(iii) SETTING UP OF NATIONAL HANDLOOM MARKETING COMPLEXES:

The weavers face the problems of marketing his products since the usually weaves in small village/town he is able to market his products only in the local area, which does not give remunerative price as large market. To resolve this problems of weavers the Government decided to set up marketing complexes through National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. Lucknow. Under the scheme the weavers sell their products to the State Handloom Development/State Hanloom Agencies who in turn sell it at the complexes. This enables greater market exposure and therefore help the weavers in getting better sales and higher earnings.

(iv) MARKETING THROUGH NATIONAL HANDLOOM EXPOS, DISTRICTS LEVEL EVENTS, FAIRS, MELAS ETCS.:

These events are organised to entable the Handloom weavers to learn market trends, design development, the taste of the customer and also to market their products.

(v) DECENTRALISED TRAINING OF WEAVERS:

The objective of the scheme is to bring about skill upgradation in the skilled and semi-skilled category of handloom weavers for enhancing their earning capacity, simultaneously ensuring development of marketable products.

2. Apart from the above schemes which are aimed at improving the quality of life and sustainable livelihood of the weavers through an improvements in the means of production, the Government of India is also implementing certain schemes exclusively for the personal welfare of the weavers. These are as follows:—

WORKSHED-CUM-HOUSING SCHEME:

This Scheme was introduced in 1985-86 with the objective of providing a dwelling unit and suitable work place for weavers so as to improve their productivity, quality of life an earnings. The assistance under the Scheme is now Rs.7000/- for Rural Workshed Rs. 10,000/- for Urban Worksheds, Rs. 18,000/- for Rural Workshed-cum-Houses and Rs. 20,000/- for Urban-Workshed-cum-Houses.

THRIFT FUND SCHEME:

The Schem envisages creation of a type of provident fund with contribution from the weavers, to enable them to meet personal expenses. The weavers contibute 8% of the wages and the Central and State Governments contribute 4% each.

HEALTH PACKAGE SCHEME:

This scheme extends finanical assistance to weavers for the treatment of diseases like asthma, TB, inflammation of the respiratory system, cost of testing of eyes and spectacles, supply of drinking water, maternity benefits to women weavers, payment of additional compensation for adopting permanent

family planning measures and infrastructure for primary health care; on a reimbursement basis.

GROUP INSURANCE SCHEME:

The Group Insurance Scheme was introduced in order to meet the socio-economic obligations of the weaver towards his family and to provide security against the uncertainty of his working capacity in old age. Under the scheme a weaver is provided an insurance coverage of Rs. 10,000/- for an annual premium of Rs. 120/- The premium is shared equally among the beneficiary, State and Central Governments.

NEW INSURANCE SCHEME FOR HANDLOOM WEAVERS:

The New Insurance Scheme provides coverage for various types of risk at a premimum of Rs. 120/- per annum with contribution of Rs. 20/- by the weaver, Rs. 40/- by State Government and Rs. 60/- per annum by the Government of India.

Gold Seized by Coast Guards

*324. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of smuggled gold seized by Coast Guards during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken to check smuggling of gold through sea?

THE MINISTER OF DEFECNE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Cost Guard neither seized any gold nor arrested any person in this connection during the last three years.

(c) The charter of Duties and Functions of the Coast Guard, *inter-alia*, includes assisting the customs and other authorities in anti-smuggling operations. The Coast Guard, therefore, undertake patrolling of the maritime zones of India independently as also jointly with customs and other concerned agencies.